SEP 1 7 2001 20

PATENT (5181-66100/P5018)

BADEIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK-OFFICE

| Application No.: 09/693,681 Filed: October 19, 2000 Inventor(s): Saulpaugh et al | | | | \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | | Unknown 2152 5181-66100 orrespondence is being deposited ervice with sufficient postage a | |
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| Title: | GAT DIST CON | NERAT TES IN FRIBU MPUTII /IRONI | TED NG | <i>∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞</i> | Patents, Washington, DC 2 | pe addressed to Commissione (2021), on the date indicated belowert C. Kowert (2021), on the date indicated belowert C. Kowert (2021), and | |
| | | <u>IN</u> | FORMATION D | ISCLO | OSURE STATEM | ENT RECEIV | ED. |
| Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 | | | | | | SEP 182 | 2001 |
| vv asiiiii | igion, 1 | J.C. 20 | <i>123</i> 1 . | • | | Technology Cen | ter 210 |
| Sir: | | | | | • | •• | |
| 1449 an | nd/or [| the ac | ests consideration of ditional information Form PTO-1449 is er | identi | fied below in parag | | |
| 1. | This In | formatio | on Disclosure Statem | ent is s | ubmitted: | | |
| | a. | | within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d); within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application; before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114. | | | | |
| | b. | | final Office Action | n or | paragraph 1a and price Notice of Allowan 2 below is provided, | | the |

enclosed.

| | c. | after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed. | | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2. | It is he | It is hereby certified: | | | | | |
| • | | that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or | | | | | |
| | | that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement. | | | | | |
| 3. | | Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested: | | | | | |
| 4. | For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-144 | | | | | | |
| | П | reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or | | | | | |
| | _ | | | | | | |
| | | reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or | | | | | |
| | | reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or | | | | | |
| | | reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s), and/or | | | | | |
| | | reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below: | | | | | |
| 5. | | Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration: | | | | | |
| 6. | | Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references. | | | | | |
| 7. | | The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application. | | | | | |

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| 8. | Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached |
| | Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the |
| | patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned |
| | application. |

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-66100.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Kowert Reg. No. 39,255

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Date: <u>Sept. 14, 2001</u>